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ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

LITERARY SOCIETIES

OF

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY,

On Commencement Day, June 22, 1871.

By JOSEPH W. TAYLOR, Esq.

Of Alabama.

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THE LEE MONUMENT:

Or, a plea for the conversion of Washington and Lee University into a Memorial University by the people of the South to constitute their final and crowning monument to the memory of General Robert E. Lee.

"I have a self-imposed task which I must accomplish. I have led the young men of the South in battle. I have seen many of them fall under my standard. I shall devote my life now to training young men to do their duty in life."

[General ROBERT E. LEE.]

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LITERARY SOCIETIES :

WE have assembled to celebrate the festivities of Literature. Over many broad leagues of land and across many a mountain and river I have come, at your bidding, to bear an honored part in the imposing ceremonial. As I look out upon the surrounding scene I see, unrolled before me, the usual panorama of an Academic celebration. The pomp and pageantry of banners and badges, of processions and music; the crowd of intelligent and appreciative spectators gathered from far and near to witness the exercises; the learned and accomplished Faculty and the honorable members of the Board of Trustees of the University, paying to the occasion the deserved mark of attention and respect which their personal presence implies; and the diligent students, returned victorious from the intellectual campaign of the closing Academic year, laden with the opulent spoils of the conquered or partially subdued provinces of mind—all are here. But there is one feature of the celebration, distinguishing it from its immediate predecessors, which cannot fail to arrest the attention of every thoughtful observer of the scene. The spectators, the students and the official dignitaries of the Institution are all in their accustomed places in the programme of the day, but where is he of the majestic form and the imperial glance whose presence for the last five years imparted such unwonted dignity and attraction to your anniversary festivals? You search in vain for his benignant features and his welcoming smile among the faces which look out upon you from this rostrum to-day. He comes not to the banquet of mind though every eye would grow brighter at his coming and every heart would kindle into fervor under the inspiration of his presence. In the meridian splendor of his use-

fulness and fame, crowned with the triple crown of the love, gratitude and admiration of his countrymen of the South,—whose prayers if they could have availed, would have made him immortal,—and second to none, living or dead, in the homage and estimation of the world, he has been borne, since your last anniversary, from this scene of his earthly labors to the beatitudes of the Just.

As scholars we may well be permitted, on an occasion like the present, to deplore the irreparable loss which the general cause of learning and education in the South and the interests of this University in particular have sustained in the death of this illustrious man. Placed, at the close of the late war between the States, by the unsolicited but richly merited appointment of your Board of Trustees, at the head of this Institution, he brought to the discharge of his official duties the maturest virtues of the Christian, the noblest faculties of the instructor and the ripest accomplishments of the scholar. Though the world was ringing, from side to side, with his fame and he might have gone up securely to the topmost round in its ladder of wealth and preferment, he was yet content, with a personal disinterestedness as rare as his talents and virtues, to devote himself in the seclusion of this Academic retreat, to the intellectual and moral elevation of the young men of the South. For five years, with the kindness of a father and the authority which preëminent abilities and distinction confer, he taught them in these classic halls, both by precept and by example how to be good as well as how to be useful and great in the bivouac and in the march of life. In the midst of these beneficent and scholarly labors he fell at the head of the young battalions of letters that he was leading to the conquest of the Palestines of mind, and you laid him, in the silence of tears and with the benediction of your filial love and respect, in yon sheltered spot and made it, by the precious deposit of his dust, one of the Meccas of mind to be visited with reverence and kindling emotion by the pilgrims of Literature from every clime. This University of yours, blessed by his labors and made pre-

eminent in fame among the Literary Institutions of the land by the official relation which he bore to it in the past, and by the custody of his honored remains which it holds in the present, owes the tribute of a grateful recognition to his memory on this its first anniversary celebration that has occurred since his death; and I know that I but respond to a wish uppermost in the hearts of the members of the two Societies in laying, as their representative on this occasion, these flowers of remembrance upon his tomb.

But as scholars and also as the friends of learning and education in the South, we may justly claim a still further privilege to-day with respect to the memory of the late lamented President of this University. He was, as you know, the foremost man of his day and generation in the love and admiration of the people of the South. It is natural, therefore, now that he is numbered with the dead, that they should desire to erect a monument to his memory befitting the dignity of his character and the splendor of his fame.

Several schemes for becoming monumental works in his honor have been already submitted to the public, some of which are now in process of execution.

The mothers and daughters of the South, not yielding to the sterner sex in admiration for the character or in gratitude for the services of their illustrious countryman, have solicited contributions from the public for some suitable memorial tribute to his memory at Richmond.

The Faculty of this University, sharing to the full in the public estimate of the character and services of their late honored President, are making in coöperation with the Lee Memorial Association of this place, praiseworthy efforts to raise funds for the erection of a mausoleum over his remains in the rooms in this Institution made memorable as the scene of his last unselfish labors on earth, and now consecrated as the shrine that holds his hallowed dust. This scheme, so felicitous in conception and which, from its nature, cannot become the rival of any other plan

for a monument on a larger scale, derives additional merit from the fact that it has been, from its first suggestion, entirely approved by that venerable and accomplished lady whose regretted ill-health prevents her from honoring this celebration by her presence to-day, and who, now in the mellow evening of a long and useful life, universally beloved and respected by the people of the South, enjoys, in her great grief for the death of her illustrious consort, the melancholy satisfaction of knowing that the tears of millions mingle with her own over his loss.

The last scheme submitted to the public for a monument to the great hero of the South was formally inaugurated by a citizens' meeting held, without distinction of party, in the city of Richmond, a few months ago. This scheme contemplates the erection of a grand monumental pile or column in that city, by contributions to be derived from all the people of the South, and funds for the purpose are being now collected by agents distributed throughout the Southern States.

But while the general merit and the peculiar appropriateness of these proposed monumental works must be fully conceded, it is yet undeniably true that the public mind of the South is still in the pause of deliberation and debate as to the locality and the character of the final and crowning monument to be erected to the memory of General Lee. No monumental scheme has yet so united the public suffrage in its favor as to become the accepted finality of the popular mind and heart on the subject. The field is, therefore, still properly open for the suggestion of commemorative plans; and it is every way desirable that as many meritorious ones as possible should be presented for the consideration of the people of the South. Out of them all, as so many contributions to the same cause, it may be possible to select one, so pre-eminent in merit and claims, that it will unite all hearts and all hands in the common work of erecting a common monument to the memory of the greatest and the most admired hero of the age.

In this view of the case, the friends of learning and education in the South, who are also the ardent admirers of the great and

good man who has now become a subject for monumental commemoration, feel justified in bringing forward still another memorial scheme for honoring his memory. Indeed, as literary men, we have a peculiar right to do so, in virtue of the fact that the late President of this University, eminent as he was in other lines of thought and action and especially as a military man, was also a ripe and accomplished scholar, and devoted the last precious years of his great life on earth to the advancement of the cause of letters and mind in the South. To literature he turned both as a solace and an employment at the close of the late war. He fell, indeed, in the harness of learning and went up from our sight, in the chariot of death, from the summit of one of the mountains of literature. It is, therefore, with peculiar propriety that the literature of the South inscribes his name on the list of her most illustrious votaries and counts his death a no common calamity to her cause. And, though the mantle of her ascended prophet has fallen on the shoulders of a literary Elisha worthy to wear it, yet, through all her stricken realm, she still mourns the departure of the Elijah of her intellectual hosts and, as a chief mourner for his loss, prefers a just claim to a chief voice in determining the character of the monumental honors which are to crown his memory. That claim, I propose, in the interest of the great cause of learning and education in the South, to advocate to-day at the bar of these respected Societies and, through them, at the bar of the public at large. With that view I have chosen, as the theme of my Address—*The Lee Monument, or, a Plea for the conversion of Washington and Lee University into a Memorial University by the people of the South, to constitute their final and crowning monument to the memory of General Robert E. Lee.*

The occasion and the place of our meeting seem peculiarly appropriate for the discussion of a theme like this. The occasion is dedicated to the advancement of the cause of letters and mind. A plea for the establishment of an institution of learning of any description, and especially of a great Memorial University, is a direct contribution to that cause and is, for that reason, in peculiar

harmony with all the requirements of the occasion itself. The place is linked in inseparable association with the name and the fame of the great and good man whose memory it is intended to honor by the proposed Memorial University. Here, in the midst of scenes fragrant with the latest reminiscences of his unselfish labors and life, and in the presence of an audience composed of his official associates, of the ingenuous young men whom he was guiding up the paths of usefulness and honor, and of the citizens of the bright and disinherited land which he loved and served so well, the plea which I propose to make to-day finds its most appropriate place for utterance and its selectest channel of communication to the public.

Indulge me in one prefatory remark more, somewhat personal in its character, which it is due to the proper presentation of the merits and claims of my subject that I should make. I occupy a position which, I respectfully submit, entitles the argument that I am about to present to a thoughtful and candid consideration by the public. I hold, as you are fully apprised, no official relation of any description to this University. I came, a few days ago, and for the first time, into this portion of your state, a stranger to you all and shall soon go hence to be seen, perhaps, no more by the mortal eyes which now behold me. I am, therefore, under no possible bias of official interest, of personal feeling or of local attachment that could either pervert my judgment or impair the credibility of my statements. A private citizen of the South, coming from another and distant State, on a mission purely Academic in its character, to this far-famed seat of Literature and Philosophy, stimulated by no solicitations of others, allured by no hope of reward, but prompted alone by the common sentiment of veneration and love for the character of the transcendent hero of my native clime and sincerely desirous that becoming memorial honors should be rendered to his great memory, I stand before these respected Societies and, through them, in the audience of the whole people of the South and ask that both you and they will accord to me that candid and impartial hearing due to

the dignity of my subject, the disinterestedness of my motives and the magnitude of the interests involved in the final decision of the great question which I am now to discuss. And I would that He who "touched Isaiah's hallowed lips with fire" would grant me the inspiration of thought and the utterance of speech to mount to the height of the great argument and would so fill my mouth with the words of persuasion and truth, that I may be able to convey to the minds of others a conviction equal to that of my own that the plan now proposed for a monument to our illustrious countryman, though the last in the order of time to be submitted to the public, is yet the first in the scale of merit and first in its claims upon the people of the South.

I begin the discussion, as the perspicuous and orderly development of the subject requires, with a glance at the leading considerations which indicate the peculiar propriety of converting Washington and Lee University into the proposed Memorial University. Assuming, for the present, what I shall endeavor, in another portion of this Address, to prove, that such an Institution would constitute the noblest, the most appropriate and the most enduring monument that the people of the South could erect to the memory of General Lee, there are many, and, as I think, very controlling reasons why this University would form the fittest foundation upon which to establish it.

In the first place, then, Washington and Lee University occupies a geographic position suitable, every way, for the proposed Memorial University. It is located in the State which, by every title, merits the distinction of having upon its soil the common monument to be erected by our people to General Lee. While the whole South justly claims an undivided heritage of glory in his great name and fame, Virginia is preëminently entitled to the largest share in the moral inheritance of both. He was born upon her soil. His life-long residence was within her limits. She has, and will have forever, the custody of his honored remains. No State in the South contributed more of blood and of treasure to the great struggle in which he achieved his im-

mortal fame and won the undying gratitude and admiration of the people of the South. Her atmosphere will be fragrant to the end of time with the mournful, but holiest memories of the Lost Cause. Her cemeteries, her hills, her valleys and all her riven plains are populous with the graves of its martyred dead. The fact therefore that Washington and Lee University stands upon Virginia soil, the soil of a State entitled, on so many accounts, to claim that the final and crowning monument to her illustrious son shall be erected somewhere within her limits, forms a most persuasive argument in its favor as the foundation for a Memorial University.

The geographic situation of the Institution is favorable in another respect for such a purpose. Nature and man have blended their ministry to make this a fitting seat for a great and prosperous University. These mountain elevations and retreats furnish a salubrious climate, health-giving breezes, attractive scenery and comparative retirement from the noise and confusion of the great outer world and a corresponding exemption from the multitudinous temptations which allure the young into the paths of vice. These natural advantages combine to make this a place where young men could be educated, in large numbers, under conditions as favorable to the preservation of their health and morals and to their progress in intellectual culture and attainment, as could be secured in any other locality in the South. This beautiful and sequestered town, set like a gem in the embrace of the engirdling mountains, famous for the morality, the intelligence and the hospitality of its inhabitants, furnishes already the facilities for board and residence needed by the University at present and, developed, as it would be, in time, by the patronage and stimulating influence of a great Memorial University, into a thriving and populous city, the Athens of the mountains and the pride of the South, would continue to furnish, in the future, abundant local accommodations for the ever-multiplying throngs of students and visitors who would be drawn to the place by the educational advantages

of the University and the celebrity of the town as the locality of the monument of General Lee.

The physical environments of the place are also in peculiar harmony with the monumental purpose to which it is proposed to dedicate this Institution. The mountains, nature's monuments over the dead creations of the geologic past buried in the stratified tombs of the rocks, are here to sentinel, with their awful forms, the grave of a hero the like of whom shall not again cross their morning and evening shadows through the ages which are to come. Yon river, the queen of the valley, spreading abundance and beauty, on every hand, as it flows, is like the fruitful moral current of his earthly life and whispers, through all its murmuring stream, of the ceaseless on-going of his fame through the future. The fragrance and beauty which distil from the pastoral landscape of these sunny valleys and embowering trees typify the moral fragrance and beauty which exhaled from all the actions of his well-spent life and still float out, like incense, from the urn of his memory, upon the breezes of history. The moan of these wind-shaken forests of the mountain, blended with the voice of the breeze of the valley and the minstrelsy of the woods, forms, as it floats over his tomb, a fitting requiem, furnished by the cathedral choir of nature herself, over the grand sleeper below. Thus all the physical peculiarities of the place are of such a character as to become tributary to the monumental purpose of a Memorial University erected here as a monument to the memory of the illustrious Lee.

The historic antecedents of Washington and Lee University constitute a further recommendation of it as the foundation for such an Institution. Its history goes back to the heroic days of the country. Grand and ennobling memories cluster about its origin and earlier progress as they do about its whole after career. The germ of the Institution was deposited in a village Academy established more than a quarter of a century before the outbreak of the American Revolution. Donations of books, of apparatus and of small sums of money were made to it, from

time to time, by the friends of learning and education in Virginia. General George Washington endowed it in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, the proceeds of valuable incorporated stock donated him, soon after the close of the Revolution, by the Legislature of his native State, but which his noble resolve to receive no pecuniary reward for his public services in the war forbade his appropriating to his own personal use. In recognition of this princely gift the Institution received the name of its illustrious patron and, after several removals both prior, and subsequent, to its endowment at the hands of Washington, was finally located on its present site within the limits of this town which bears the name of the ever memorable place that received the first baptism of fire and blood in the opening conflict of the Revolution. From that period down to the present time, the Institution has continued to receive occasional donations, sometimes of large amount, from private persons, showing that it has been at all times a great favorite with the public. During the late disastrous civil war it was sacked by the Federal army of invasion, its apparatus destroyed, its libraries scattered and ruined and its doors practically closed.

These few facts in the early and later history of the Institution, which are all that it is necessary for my purpose to recite, show that it has come down from the generations which are past, permeated by the spirit and imbued with the memories of a grand and heroic age, and that the honorable scars of the recent great struggle are upon it. This proud record fits it, in a peculiar manner, to be at once the sepulchre and the monument of Robert E. Lee. The baptism of the prayers and the benefactions of the men of the Revolutionary and ante-Revolutionary era, enrobes it with a dignity and a moral grandeur in harmony with his character and life. The imposition of the hands of Washington in blessing and help upon it in the days of its early trials and struggles, only makes it the more worthy, by a prophetic dedication at the hands of kindred greatness and goodness, to perpetuate the memory of one who was the peer of Washington, as patriot, hero and

man, and who like him drew his sword only in defence of what he believed to be the right, and returned it to its scabbard, when the conflict was over, without one spot of ambition or of cruelty upon its blade. The scars of the pillage and hate of the late struggle, which it may well wear as jewels in the crown of its merit, bring it into a sort of moral alliance with the memory of the great hero and patriot of the conflict itself which renders it all the fitter, as a monument, to perpetuate his fame.

Nor must the present condition of Washington and Lee University and the high estimation in which it is generally held by the people of the South be overlooked in the enumeration of its claims to be converted into a Memorial University. It is already a prosperous and renowned Institution of learning, crowded with students from all portions of the country, blessed with a most able, learned and efficient Faculty, administered by an enlightened and trustworthy Board of Trustees and furnished with large libraries, competent apparatus, a comprehensive curriculum of studies and a liberal endowment. These numerous and valuable educational agencies and appliances would form a grand contribution to the proposed Memorial University. They constitute so much material for it, intellectual and physical, already provided, brought to the spot, placed in proper position and ready to receive the additions necessary to expand this University into the grander Institution into which it is desired to convert it.

The general and deservedly high reputation of Washington and Lee University throughout the South, leaves no adverse prejudices and prepossessions to be removed, no damaging antagonisms to be conciliated, but opens a ready and easy access to the confidence and liberality of the people to whom the appeal would have to be made for the pecuniary means to develop it into the majestic proportions of a Memorial University.

But a more potent and persuasive argument for the conversion of this Institution into a Memorial University is to be found in the fact that it was presided over by General Lee during the last five years of his life; was the intellectual child of his affections

and prayers; was the Institution for the advancement of which he felt the deepest solicitude, and made the most strenuous efforts to the end of his days; and is fragrant through all its academic grounds and edifices with undying memories of his life, character and services.

He came here from out the dim cloud of unsuccessful war to labor, in patience and humility, for the good of his native South; to give to the world its grandest example of heroic submission to the stroke of misfortune, and finally to die. He found the Institution fallen from its former high estate through the pillage and the waste of war and almost broken in its hopes for the future. Devoting himself with singleness of purpose, and from a profound and deliberate sense of duty to the reconstruction of its shattered fortunes, he gave to it the arduous labors of the day and the anxious thoughts of the night; baptized it with his prayers; dowered it with his love; bent over it as a strong man bends over a child for protection and help; developed, in the administration of its affairs, the highest and best qualities of the great College President, showing that he possessed aptitudes and abilities for the pursuits of peace equal to those he had displayed in the conduct of war; exhibited new and even more shining traits of his great character; and died in the midst of wise and far-reaching but unfulfilled plans for the increase of its prosperity and usefulness in the future. Nor were his labors in vain. Smitten by the Prospero wand of his energy and fame the Institution sprang, phoenix-like, prosperous and strong, from the recent ashes of its ruin and decline, and advanced with unfaltering steps to the front rank of American Colleges, both in celebrity and in the number of students frequenting its halls. These facts, known to the whole country and which form a valuable addition to the general history of literature itself, have greatly endeared Washington and Lee University to all the people of the South, and fitted it in a peculiar manner to become, as a Memorial University, the monument of its late illustrious President. To enlarge its foundations, to increase its endowment and to multiply and cheapen its educa-

tional facilities, thus carrying out his benignant plans for its future, should be, it would seem, a labor of love with all the true-hearted sons and daughters of the South. In so doing they would exercise a sort of paternal guardianship over the orphanage of the literary Benjamin of the old age of the great patriarch of their Lost Cause, and at once honor the memory of the dead and benefit the living by the merited benefaction.

But the chief value of the official connection of General Lee with this University, viewing it as the foundation for a Memorial University in his honor, consists in the memories of himself which have thus become indissolubly associated with the place. There is not an object or a scene around us here to-day that does not suggest a remembrance of him, or that is not made holier to the heart of patriotism by the benison of his former presence which still lingers upon it. Out upon yonder azure mountains and winding river and emerald valleys, he looked with the eyes that melted in love for his fellow-man, and that kindled in war against the enemies of his country, and mountain and river and valley wear a grander and a sweeter aspect for his look. Over this velvet campus and these flowing grounds, he walked with the feet which trod always in the path of duty, which were slow and reluctant on the dread mission of war, but swift and eager on the blessed errands of peace, and left over them all foot-prints which, to fancy's eye, shall remain there forever to guide the young men of the South in the way they should go, and be also,

"Foot-prints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and ship-wrecked brother
Seeing, shall take heart again."

In these Academic halls he taught our youth, both by precept and example, the lessons of greatness and goodness, and the echoes of his paternal voice, and the image of his majestic presence will, in the creed of our hearts, pass out from them no more. And in yon neighboring mansion, he lived his grand and unselfish private

life; illustrated the beauty of Christian faith by the integrity of Christian practice; taught all the social and domestic virtues by the amenities and graces of his daily walk and conversation; and, in the end of his days, passed through the transfiguration of death, up the pathway of the skies, leaving the whole moral heavens of the South luminous with the pomp of his beatific ascent, and here shall abide to the end of time, the remembrance of a life so heroic and a death so grand.

All these precious and ennobling memories, and far more than these, are the special and indefeasible moral property of this Institution. They are incapable of transfer to another locality, for they are linked in indissoluble union with the spot on which we are assembled. They cannot die, for they are memories inseparably associated with the name and the fame of a man who was not born to perish from remembrance on the earth. In the interest of humanity, in the interest of morals and Christianity, and especially in the interest of the great cause of learning and education in the South, it is important that these precious and undying memories, so potent to educate the minds and hearts of our young men, and to mould their characters into the noblest type of manhood, should be converted into enduring educational agencies through the preserving and distributing ministry of a great institution of learning. The fact, therefore, that this University is so populous with these golden memories, not only renders its continued existence and prosperity a matter of great interest and importance to the people of the South, but fits it, in a special manner, for conversion into a Memorial University. One of the leading objects of such an institution, apart from its monumental purpose, would be to bring the young men of the South, as effectively as possible, under the elevating influence of the life and character of General Lee during the impressible periods of their Academic life. And where else could that be done with so much certainty and success as in this University, which alone, of all our institutions of learning, was blessed and honored by his official connection with its affairs, and by his per-

sonal residence upon its grounds; and which, therefore, alone has memories associated with him to claim, as its dowry of glory in the present and to transmit as an educational blessing to the future. Here, in this Institution, converted into a Memorial University, these memories, preserved as in a moral vase, may be made to distribute, through educational channels, their moral fragrance and healthful influence among all the inheritors of the fame of our illustrious countryman, just as the sweet, volatile essences of the mineral and vegetable worlds, collected and imprisoned by chemic art, in proper receptacles, distribute their odors and vivifying influence, in all directions, from their fragrant centres of radiation.

One other reason why Washington and Lee University is most fit to be converted into a Memorial University by the people of the South remains to be presented. The sepulchre of General Lee is here.

There seems to be, in the very nature of the case, a felicitous propriety in the selection of this as the burial place of our illustrious countryman. A great man finds his most fitting place of interment on the theatre of his noblest achievements and in the midst of the memorials of his grandest triumphs. General Lee won brilliant victories and performed illustrious actions upon the theatre of the entire South, and, for that reason, no spot in the entire South would seem to be without claims as a becoming burial place for his honored remains. But I submit, with entire confidence in the correctness of the position, which I shall elaborate in another portion of this address, that General Lee appeared in his most useful and attractive character on the theatre of this University; that the noblest portion of his life was that which he spent in its service; that his grandest victory was the conquest which he made over the calamity of his military fall by his unselfish life and labors in these quiet retreats of letters and philosophy; that his loftiest achievement was the teaching of his fellow-countrymen of the South, by his personal example and labors here, how they may, in the end, convert the military defeats of

the past into the civil triumphs of the future; and that in this University he gave the crowning and most useful lesson of his life and character to the world. Here, therefore, in this quiet and beautiful retreat, far off from the multitudinous din and the feverish excitements of political capitols and commercial marts, amid the stillness and the grandeur of nature, with her mountains for sentinels and her myriad voices for requiem, where the great hero, patriot and educator of the South first laid down upon the loving bosom of the soil of his native State in the long sleep of death, with the field and the memorials of his scholarly labors around him, his remains find their most fitting place of repose.

And here, also, must be the most fitting locality for the erection of the final and crowning monument to his memory. This is almost too clear for argument and too obvious for proof. While, as in the case of great and popular heroes, the whole country of their birth or adoption may, properly, and, in a few modern as well as ancient instances, actually does swarm through all its limits with memorial tributes to their memories in marble and brass and on canvass, yet the general sentiment and practice of mankind are in favor of erecting the chief monuments to their illustrious dead upon the spot in which their mortal remains are entombed. From the days of the Egyptian Pharoahs, who built the Pyramids as at once sepulchres and monuments for themselves, down to the very recent periods which saw the polished marble slab erected in yon neighboring cemetery over the honored dust of one of the greatest and best of the martyrs of the Lost Cause, you will find, with few and unexplainable exceptions, that the remains of the great attract the monuments erected to their memory, to the spot where they lie. Then, as the grave of General Lee is here, here, also, is the most fitting locality for his crowning monument. And, in the event it is finally decided that a Memorial University on this spot shall constitute that monument, the presence of his remains in the midst of its memorial buildings would form one of the most potent and valuable of all the educational agencies and influences of the Institution. From the graves of the great and

the good there issue evermore, by the high ordination of heaven in the constitution of our moral and intellectual being, streams of influence upon the hearts and the characters of the living. The tombs of prophets and martyrs, and of men who lived to uphold or died to defend a good cause, though voiceless as the night, yet speak to us, through the laws of association, with tongues of fire and in words which kindle while they awe the soul. The light of immortal memories hovers over them, and from the jaws of their deep mystery come spells of influence that educate the heart, expand the intellect and prepare for the solemn conflict of life. The tomb of Lee, who was as good as he was great, will form, in one sense, an educational institution in itself in the land which he defended so grandly with his sword while living, and illustrates so conspicuously by his character and fame now that he is dead. Though no audible voice may issue from its precincts of silence and rest, it yet shall speak to the people of the South through all their generations. Its utterances shall be of duty, of patriotism, of triumph over self, of the great and heroic in life, and of Christian fortitude and resignation in death. And they shall heed these utterances and go out from communion with the ennobling memories of the spot with invigorated courage and resolution for all the trials of private and all the conflicts of public life. The fact, therefore, that the sepulchre of General Lee is here, not only designates this as the most appropriate locality for the common monument to be erected by our people in his honor, but indicates the peculiar fitness of this Institution for the memorial purposes to which it is proposed to dedicate it.

Still assuming, then, what yet remains to be proved, that a Memorial University would constitute the noblest, the most appropriate and the most enduring monument that the people of the South could erect to the memory of General Lee, the considerations which I have now submitted, show, I think, very conclusively, that Washington and Lee University would form the most suitable foundation for such an Institution.

But, in order to adapt it to the larger and somewhat peculiar educational sphere which, in the event of its conversion to such a purpose, it would be required to fill, it would be necessary to enlarge its general Academic plan, even beyond its present most liberal scale and also to introduce certain modifications in its organic structure.

To what extent an enlargement of its Academic plan would be required cannot, of course, be more than speculatively and in a general way, determined at present, as that would depend very essentially and, indeed, almost entirely, upon the amount of the endowment fund that could be raised for its support; no enlargement, at all, being either safely practicable or desirable beyond the ascertained pecuniary ability of the Institution to make it effective. But as the Institution, on its authoritative conversion into a Memorial University, would become in effect, in the manner to be presently explained, the common property of all the people of the South, and would, in all probability, be frequented by a very large number of students seeking instruction in every branch of letters, art and philosophy, its Academic plan would have necessarily to be projected on a comprehensive scale; a scale large enough to respond to the educational wants of its numerous students and to make it answer the aspiration of the hearts of the Southern people for a first class monument to honor the memory of their beloved Lee. All, therefore, that can be considerably said on the point, in advance of a knowledge of the actual amount of the funds that can be raised for the endowment of the Institution, is, that it should be enlarged in its general Academic plan to as great an extent as its pecuniary resources will safely allow and should, if possible, be elevated to the distinction of being the foremost and completest University in the world.

But upon the other point, as to the modifications which it would be necessary to introduce in the organic structure of the Institution to adapt it to the purpose proposed, it is possible to speak with almost positive definiteness. As the Institution, on

its conversion into a Memorial University, would become also memorial or monumental in its character, these modifications would, of course, consist of such arrangements as would impress upon it, both in its substance and in its practical evolution, that characteristic peculiarity. Without pausing to enumerate all the modifications which might be required for such a purpose, it will suffice for the aim of this Address, which is intended to suggest the outlines rather than to present the details of the subject, to say, that two of them would consist in organic provisions for the perpetual observance and commemoration in the Memorial University of the anniversaries of the birth and death of General Lee. The great objects to be accomplished by such an arrangement would be to express to the public the monumental character of the Institution, to keep the memory of General Lee vividly alive in the minds and hearts of all and especially of the students and to bring the latter, as much as possible, under the quickening and moulding influence of his great life and character in the process of their Academic discipline and education.

To suitably enlarge the Institution and thus adapt it to the cardinal purpose of being a fitting monument for General Lee, a very liberal endowment would be required. Here again, from the very nature of the case, it is not possible to speak with any degree of definiteness or precision. Were I to say that an endowment of millions of dollars would be insufficient to expand this Institution into a Memorial University worthy of the fame or commensurate with the merits of General Lee, I should simply state a proposition that would be demonstrably true in itself and which both your judgments and your hearts would, at once, ratify as true, without either abatement or qualification. But the limits prescribed for our just expectations and for our possible attainments in this matter of a memorial endowment, must be determined less by his merits and claims than by the probable or actual willingness of the public to give of its substance for the erection of a monument to his memory. And as it is not possible, in

advance of a tentative appeal to its liberality, to decide how much it would be willing to contribute for such a purpose, the most that can be said with propriety on the point at present, is, that a very large sum of money, say not less than one million of dollars, as a minimum and as much as five millions of dollars, which would be far better, if that amount could be obtained, as a maximum, would be required to found a Memorial University on such a scale as to make it a monument worthy of General Lee and becoming the people of the South to erect to his memory.

The sources from which the funds for the proposed memorial endowment could be raised are principally these three;—appropriations by the Southern States acting in their corporate political capacity as States; individual contributions by the people of the South; and donations from such persons in the Northern States as might be disposed to give of their means in aid of such an enterprise.

The Southern States, as States, should, and doubtless would, be willing to make liberal appropriations, through their several Legislatures, for the endowment of a Memorial University founded in honor of General Lee, who drew the sword in defense of the autonomy of the individual States within the recognized limits of the Federal Constitution, perilled life, property and reputation in their assertion, and went down, in unavoidable defeat, on the bloody field of war, with the conquered banner of the rights of the States in his hands. Such a recognition of his services in their behalf would be both timely and appropriate, and would also, as we have every reason to believe, be fully in accord with the wish and sentiment of the several popular constituencies represented by the various State Legislatures. Nor would appropriations for such a purpose be violative of any provisions of the State Constitutions, as can be most clearly shown both by argument and authority, or even without frequent precedent in the history of State legislation, as donations have been made, in many instances, by the State Legislatures for the erection of both local and national monuments;—the Legislature of South Carolina, for an example in point, having

many years ago appropriated the sum of ten thousand dollars in aid of the Washington monument in the Federal metropolis.

The people of the South, we may safely assume, would be both ready and willing to make liberal contributions, in their private capacity as individuals, for the endowment of a Memorial University, accepted by them as the most appropriate monument that they could erect to the memory of General Lee. It would be due, indeed, no less to themselves than to his great name and fame that they should do so. As the Memorial University, considered as his monument, would express to mankind, in the present and in the future, their estimate of the life, character and services of General Lee, it would become the standard by which their valuation of them would be judged, and, as that is really and deservedly very high, they would desire, I suppose, that the Institution, considered as the symbol of their admiration and respect for his character and memory, should, in the magnitude of its proportions and the liberality of its endowment, adequately express that which it was intended to represent. Placing the matter on this purely selfish ground alone and omitting any reference to the numerous other and higher considerations which, it is believed, would conspire to render an appeal to the people of the South for contributions to the endowment fund of a Memorial University, nearly or quite irresistible, I feel persuaded that they would, from motives of personal pride and as an act of simple justice to themselves, respond most liberally to such an appeal. That they should do so, would also be due to the memory of General Lee himself. His love for, and services to, the people of the South make all but adoration his due at their hands, and however grand might be their contributions to honor his memory, they would still be largely debtors for sacrifices and benefactions which find no adequate or fitting compensation in mere pecuniary values. A conviction of this sort would doubtless contribute largely to swell the popular contributions to the endowment fund of a Memorial University set apart as the monument of General Lee. Besides, as the Institution, as will be presently shown, would be for the com-

mon benefit and use of the people of the South, the solicitations of private interest would combine with the sentiment of personal pride and the impulses of gratitude, to provoke a grand and seeming liberality throughout the entire South.

Contributions for the same purpose might also be expected from many liberal and well disposed persons in the North. The people of that section scarcely yield to the people of the South in admiration for the character and in veneration for the memory of General Lee. These sentiments will continue to spread there, and will, in time, become both universal and intense among the masses of the people, with the dying out of the passions and the passing away of the prejudices engendered by the late war. The day, indeed, cannot be very far distant when the North will unite with the South in proclaiming Robert E. Lee to have been one of the grandest specimens of American manhood, and in placing his name, as common property, on the brightest scrolls of our common American history. There are hundreds, yea thousands, in that section to-day who would gladly contribute, were the opportunity presented of doing so in some unobjectionable mode, to render fitting honor to the memory of the illustrious Southerner. The endowment of a Memorial University would furnish a common neutral ground upon which these admirers of General Lee in the North could unite with the people of the South in rendering common memorial honors to his memory. As there would be nothing political in the nature, results and bearing of such an Institution, there could be no possible compromise of political sentiments or antecedents, either express or implied, in the act of aiding to endow it. And through the process of these blended contributions of the two sections in the present, to found a Memorial University, as his monument, and their blended patronage to it, in the way of pupils, in the future, the recognition of General Lee, as one of the greatest and noblest of American worthies, would become gradually nationalized, and the two alienated and lately warring sections, might thus be brought to grasp each others hands, in the act of mutual forgiveness and reconciliation, over

the grave of one who, though born upon the soil of one section, and devoting his life to its service, was yet too grand in his character and too glorious in his fame to be appropriated as the exclusive property of either. In this way the very monument of General Lee would become tributary to the accomplishment of the noble aspiration of his heart, in the last days of his life, for the complete obliteration of the bitter memories and the common scars of the late war between the sections.

The endowment fund for the proposed Memorial University, which might be derived from the three sources now enumerated, would, in all probability, be largely augmented by legacies and by donations of specific sums of money, of books, apparatus and other educational appliances made from time to time, in all portions of the country and from abroad, by the admirers of General Lee desirous of honoring his memory, by contributions to the Institution, as his monument, and also by the friends of education seeking a safe and perpetual investment of their charities to the general cause of learning and education.

Assuming that a competent or, at least, a very liberal endowment for a Memorial University could be obtained from the several sources just pointed out, it would be the dictate, both of justice and of a sound educational policy, that the Institution should be open, free of cost or charge for tuition or academic privileges of any description, for the reception of students from each Southern State, and from the contributing communities or individuals in the North, on the basis of numbers proportioned to contributions to the endowment fund. That is, each Southern State and each community or individual in the North contributing endowment funds should be entitled to send to the Institution a number of students, which, as compared with the whole number, shall be of a ratio equal to that between the contribution, in the particular case, and the entire aggregate of the funds composing the endowment. Thus, suppose the aggregate endowment of the Institution be, in round numbers, three millions of dollars, and three thousand students the maximum number that could be conveniently accommodated

and instructed in it at one time, then, as the larger divided by the smaller number yields a quotient of one thousand, it follows that the ratio of representation in the Institution would be that of one student to each thousand dollars of contributed funds. Hence each State, community or individual would be entitled to send to the Institution a number of students to be ascertained by dividing his or its contribution, expressed numerically in dollars, by the ratio number, one thousand. Therefore, a State contributing two hundred thousand dollars to the endowment would be entitled to send two hundred students to the Institution free of charge for tuition and academic fees of every description.

Such an arrangement for the distribution of the educational advantages of the Institution would be eminently proper and just, as it would strictly proportion benefits to the price paid for them in the way of contributions to the endowment funds, would operate as a salutary and, indeed, a required limitation upon the number of students admitted into the Institution which, in the very nature of the case, would tend constantly to excess, and would possess the additional merit of offering a powerful stimulus to the competitive liberality of the States, and the people of the States of the South, as well as of Northern communities and individuals.

The opening of the Institution, in the manner proposed, for the gratuitous instruction of students, would be of immense and permanent benefit to all the people of the South, as it would bring the advantages of a first-class University within easy reach of a numerous and very meritorious class of young men who, without such a provision, might not be able to obtain a Collegiate education at all; and would, also, enable it to carry out the declared purpose of Washington in bestowing his princely benefaction upon this Institution, which was to provide for "the education of the children of the poor, particularly of such as have fallen in defence of the country;" as well as to execute the noble wishes of General Lee himself, who, speaking of his plans for this Institution while he was its President, was often heard to express his anxiety to

have it so endowed as to bring its advantages within the reach of the poorest young man in the country who desired an education and showed he had the ability to receive it.

A Memorial University, established and endowed by the people of the South, upon the plan which I have now briefly, but, I fear, very inadequately sketched, and dedicated to the instruction of their sons free of charge, through all the coming generations of the future, would be an object fitted, in the bare contemplation, to kindle the enthusiasm alike of the patriot and of the scholar. As a monument it would constitute an imposing addition to the world's stock of commemorative works. Erected in a spirit of self-sacrificing patriotism by the impoverished and war-wasted people of the South, it would confer distinction on them as its founders and reflect imperishable honor upon the memory of the hero deemed worthy of such a grand monumental commemoration. In the splendor of its endowment, the dignity of its purpose, and the grandeur of its educational equipment and proportions, it would be the foremost institution of learning in the world. Owned and patronized by all the people of the South, it would become the central sun of their entire educational system. Year by year, it would pour into the bosom of each Southern community an ever increasing number of graduates and of proficients in the various specialities of the University curriculum; thus paying back to the States and the people of the States of the South, in the cultivated minds and hearts of their young men, a noble annual interest upon the principal of their contributions to the endowment fund of the Institution and diffusing and maintaining a spirit of closer unity and of more cordial fellowship, in both thought and action, among all the people of the South. Between it and the several State Colleges and Universities there could be, in consequence of their common ownership and patronage, neither exasperating jealousies, damaging rivalries, nor unfriendly relations of any description, but there would exist rather a constant and vivid interchange of the comities of the commonwealth of mind and of the courtesies of a common literary sisterhood. Its

educational offices would endear it to the popular heart. Its memorial consecration would enrobe it with moral dignity and grandeur in the popular mind. And as it would be foremost in dignity and importance among all the Colleges and Universities of the South, so it would become, at once, and would ever continue to be, foremost in the affections and in the veneration of the people of the South.

I pass now to the concluding topic of this address.

Washington and Lee University, suitably enlarged in its Academic plan and equipments, properly endowed by the people of the South, and opened, in the manner I have described, for the reception of students, and, as would seem to be both desirable and proper, its name changed to that of the Lee Monumental University or some other equally descriptive appellative, would, I respectfully submit, constitute the noblest, the most appropriate and the most enduring monument that the people of the South could erect to the memory of their great hero and patriot, General Robert E. Lee.

That it would form the noblest monument that they could erect to his memory can, I think, be very conclusively shown. The proper conception of a monument is, that it is a work of art designed to perpetuate the memory of a person or event. The ideal of it yields, on its philosophical analysis, three correlative elements or factors which are all necessary to it as a whole. The first of these relates to the material and structure of the monument, and constitutes its art element; the second relates to the individual, the community or the people by whom it was erected, and forms its personal element, and the third relates to the person or event whose memory the monument is intended to perpetuate, and forms its moral element. A monument will make a nearer or a more distant approach to its true ideal as a commemorative work of art, according as these elements, in greater or less abundance, are present, and more or less properly blended in it, as a concrete reality. If the materials of which it is composed be wanting in the durability and strength required in a monumental structure, or, if these be of the right kind, but inartistically and

unsuitably arranged, the art element being inadequately represented in the monument, it will be defective as a work of art, and, to that extent, ignoble as a monument. So, if only one individual, or, at most, a very few persons out of a great many who, in any given case, might be supposed interested in the construction of a monument, actually build it, the fact would seem to imply a deserved want of general appreciation of the event or person intended to be commemorated by it, and thus the personal element being imperfectly represented in it, its impressiveness as a monument would be lowered in a corresponding degree. And if the event or person, whose memory is intended to be perpetuated by the monument, be not, in the judgment of mankind and in reality, worthy of monumental commemoration, there is a lack of the moral element in it which disrobes it of all true grandeur and dignity. But if the materials of the monument be suitable, and their arrangement artistic and proper, if the requisite number of persons unite in its erection, and if a worthy person or event be commemorated by it, it will be, tried by the test of its own ideal, a complete and, if on a scale large enough, even a grand monumental work.

Let us now apply these elementary principles in the monumental art to the solution of the case in hand.

Suppose, then, a memorial column or pile erected, say, in the Hollywood Cemetery, at Richmond, Virginia. It is composed of fitting material, and is, every way, faultless as a work of art. It has been built by contributions furnished by the whole people of the South and by portions of the people of the North. It is intended to perpetuate the memory of General Robert E. Lee, a person who, whether considered as soldier, patriot, hero or man, is preëminently worthy of monumental commemoration. Here, all the elements or factors which compose the true ideal of a monument, are present in due abundance, and are blended in due proportion in the concrete reality of the finished structure. It forms, it must be confessed, a noble and impressive monument, and would worthily transmit the great name and fame of General Lee to the future.

Compare now, in idea, with this finished monumental shaft or structure, the proposed Memorial University. It is located, say, on the spot where we are now assembled. Its buildings, massive and grand, are composed of enduring materials, and are so constructed and arranged by the cunning hand of the architect that, while they present finished models of architectural beauty and elegance, they take on, when viewed as a whole, the aspect of one great monument. They have been erected or re-modelled and enlarged by contributions made by all the States and people of the South and portions of the people of the North, and are dedicated as a monument to the memory of General Robert E. Lee, a man worthy of the grandest monumental commemoration. Here, as in the former instance, the three primitive elements or factors which compose the ideal of a monument being all present in the required abundance and proportions, the buildings form a monument quite as noble and impressive as the column.

Up to this point, then, there would seem to be an exact parallelism or complete equality of merit between the column or pile and the Memorial University, viewed as a mere collection of memorial buildings, the difference, if any, being clearly in favor of the latter as the grander and more impressive monument of the two. But it is precisely at this point that the real and truly great difference between them, both in merit and in character as monuments, is developed. For while the column or pile has no purpose or use beyond the point up to which the parallel between it and the Memorial University has just been drawn, the latter has a purpose and use which reach far beyond that point, and enrobe it with augmented dignity and grandeur. It is not a mere monument and nothing more, as is the shaft or pile, but it is at once a monument, and also a great foundation, for the perpetual increase and distribution of knowledge and virtue among men. While it commemorates the dead, it educates the living. And this double function it is made to perform on such conditions and in such a way that its monumental character is not only not merged in its educational, and thus comparatively debased in its memorial ex-

pression and value, but derives additional dignity and impressiveness from its alliance with the latter. The name of the Institution, the commemorative exercises held in it on the anniversaries of the birth and the death of General Lee, and the universal publicity of its dedication to a memorial use, keep its monumental character prominent, at all times, in the popular recognition and belief, while the educational features are so engrafted upon, and intertwined with the monumental, as to become themselves commemorative in their type and expression. For they have a direct relation both to the wishes and character of General Lee. It was his known wish to have this Institution so liberally endowed that it might be able to furnish tuition free of cost to the poorer classes of young men, and this, on its conversion into a Memorial University upon the plan proposed in this address, it would be able to do. And as the moral influence of his character forms one of the chief educational agencies of the Institution, it is clear that in the very process of educating the young, the Memorial University commemorates the character of General Lee. Viewed in this light, the educational features of the Institution not only become commemorative in aspect and functions, but constitute, in substance, an embodied declaration on the part of the people of the South, that so sacred and binding do they hold the mere known and declared wish of General Lee for the gratuitous instruction of the poorer classes of young men, to be, that they endow a great Institution of learning to carry it into effect, and so highly do they estimate his character, that they wish to constitute him, though dead, by the provisional arrangement of a Memorial University, the perpetual moral architect of the characters, and shaper of the destinies of the young men of the South.

It is clear, therefore, that while the purpose of an ordinary monument is single and merely commemorative in its character, the purpose of a Memorial University is double and at once commemorative and educational in its character, with these two features so blended as to form the common monumental characteristic of the Institution. And as this double purpose is neces-

sarily, from its very nature in the present instance, more noble and impressive than either of its factors taken separately, it follows that the purpose of a Memorial University is nobler and more impressive than that of a merely commemorative monument.

Now it is the purpose which enrobes the structures of human art and hands with character and dignity and makes them more or less noble in reality and in contemplation to the beholder. If they have no moral object, furnish no admonition, or sentiment or instruction to mankind and disclose no high end in their erection, however meritorious they may be as mere works of art, they are destitute of dignity and moral grandeur, and have no character that speaks to the comprehension and the feelings of men. The mighty pyramids of Egypt and numerous other fabrics which still exist in the Older World, either had no purpose beyond that of mausoleums, or if they had a higher object than that, it has perished from history and tradition and they stand in blank, grey stupendousness, giving no answers to the questionings of intellect and sending forth no awful utterance to the living. But the monumental columns at Washington, upon Bunker Hill and upon the field of Waterloo, and many similar structures both in the Old World and in the New, have a well known purpose and it is that purpose which imparts to them whatever of dignity, of character and of moral grandeur they possess.

Hence, as the blended educational and monumental purpose of a Memorial University, surpasses, as I have already shown, in dignity and impressiveness, the purpose of a mere monumental pile or shaft, it follows, that such an Institution would form a nobler monument than the latter to the memory of General Lee.

But the point may be pressed further still. A Memorial University would constitute the noblest possible monument of any description that the people of the South could erect to General Lee. As has just been proved, it is nobler as a monument, being nobler in purpose, than a memorial column or pile.

For the same reason it surpasses in memorial excellence any other kind of monument that could be devised. For what institution of learning of a grade inferior to a University, what foundation for the distribution of a charity, public or private, or what secular institution of any description in the whole range of human invention and pursuit suitable for appropriation to a memorial use, could rival, in the dignity of its objects and in the value and grandeur of its results, a great Memorial University? Such an Institution, organized on a plan at all commensurate with the merits of General Lee and within easy reach of the pecuniary ability of the people of the South to accomplish, would be, as I have shown in an earlier portion of this Address, an object of transcendent dignity and grandeur, both in purpose and in character, and for that reason it would form the noblest monument that the people of the South could erect to the memory of General Lee.

It would, also, be the most appropriate.

The law of the proprieties applies with peculiar force to the case of commemorative works of art, especially those intended to perpetuate the memory of illustrious persons. The general and the controlling rule applicable to all the particular instances is that the monument should, in its style and proportions, conform to the life, character and crowning services or labors of its subject and be, as far as possible, the typical history of his life or at least of that portion of it most worthy of monumental commemoration, as well as also the memorial of his fame. Tried by the test of this rule, a Memorial University would constitute a peculiarly appropriate monument for General Lee as it would be in peculiar conformity with that portion of his life, character and services or labors which mankind will doubtless deem most deserving of memorial commemoration.

He appeared upon the theatre of life in two widely variant characters; ran two totally dissimilar careers, and performed labors and rendered services of two very different kinds.

He was a military man of the highest genius and of the brightest achievements in the profession of arms, and his name has passed into history as one of the greatest and purest Captains of the world. He was also a civilian of the most eminent virtues and of the highest aptitude for the pursuits of civil life, and, as the President of this University, evinced that, great and preëminent as he was in the affairs of war, nature had fitted him to be equally great and preëminent in the affairs of peace. And, if I do not greatly err in the estimate, it was in his capacity of a College President, that he displayed most conspicuously the intrinsic greatness of his character and the true heroism of his life, performed his most valuable services and won his most enduring title to remembrance and memorial commemoration among men. The meteor glare of military fame has ever dazzled and allured mankind and betrayed them into a false valuation of the heroes of the sword and of the victories of the battle field. In the estimate of a sound philosophy, the heroes and the victories of peace transcend in dignity and value those of war and are far more worthy of monumental honors. Grand as General Lee unquestionably was, in plume and epaulet, marching, in war's magnificently stern array, at the head of his military columns to the defense of the soil and the rights of his native clime, he was grander far, in reason's eye, advancing, in the garb of the scholar, in the lead of the young cohorts of letters, to the escalade of the citadels of ignorance and the defense of the realms of the intellect against the invasion of the Saracens of the mind. In the camp and as a soldier he operated upon men only to fashion them into deadlier instruments for the dread ministries of war. In the College and as an instructor he moulded the minds and the hearts of the young for the blessed labors of peace. The armies which he disciplined and led to battle have already been dissolved and the discipline and tactics acquired by the men who composed them are valueless now both to themselves and to others. But the hosts of young men whom he disciplined and led up the steeps of knowledge and virtue in

these Academic halls remain distributed, as *nuclei* of intelligence and activity, throughout the wide despersion of our Southern society and the discipline and culture which he helped them to acquire will continue to be useful both to themselves and to others throughout the whole period of their immortal career. The battles which he fought and the victories which he won in arms, though they have served to immortalize his name and have invested the memory of the Lost Cause with imperishable renown, have yet proved, in other respects, comparatively valueless in result. But the services which he rendered the great cause of learning and education in the South by the last unselfish labors of his life as the President of this University, the honor which he conferred on all our Colleges by his official connexion with this member of the literary sisterhood and the complete model which he furnished in himself of a great and successful College President, will abide as permanent and inspiring influences among the people of the South and continue to bless them, in result, for ages to come. As a soldier he taught the world the lesson of true greatness in war, of magnanimous forbearance in victory and of heroic fortitude in defeat; but as a civilian he taught it the sublimer lesson of a conquest over the calamity of the mightiest fall, and of a courage nobler than that of the warrior, and showed his fellow-countrymen of the South, by his personal example and labors, how they may, in the end, convert the defeat of their Lost Cause upon the bloody fields of war into the triumph of a nobler cause upon the bloodless fields of peace.

I conclude, therefore, that great as were the life, character and services of General Lee as a warrior and worthy as they most undoubtedly are of fitting commemoration, his life, character and services as a civilian were greater still and still more worthy of fitting commemoration. If this be so, then, if the manifest requirements of the commemorative art are to be observed in the case, a Memorial University becomes the most appropriate monument that could be erected to his memory. For what memorial

honors so becoming could be rendered the memory of a great and successful College President, as to convert the Institution over which he once presided into a monument to perpetuate his fame? The preëminent appropriateness of such a mode of commemoration in the case supposed is too obvious and striking to require either argument or illustration to enforce its propriety.

But a Memorial University would be the most appropriate monument for General Lee for another and very impressive reason. It would be in peculiar harmony with his last unselfish labors and aspirations on earth, and would, as it were, perpetuate those labors and carry forward those aspirations into grand and abundant fruition in the future.

He came to this Institution from the overthrow of war to labor for the good of the people whose cause he had so nobly, but unsuccessfully defended with his sword. Of all the fields of labor which lay open before him, he chose the educational as the fittest for the accomplishment of the object which he had in view. No mercenary or ambitious motives prompted his choice. Nor was it a choice dictated by necessity. The most glittering offers that could tempt cupidity or stimulate the aspiration for the honors which wealth confers, were made to allure him into the lucrative fields of commerce and trade. His reputation alone, like the lamp of the magician in the Arabian tale, would have evoked the genius of riches at his bidding and made it the obedient minister of his will, so that he possessed, at all times, the means of readily repairing his private fortunes shattered by the vandal waste of war and the confiscation pillage of peace. But a profound and deliberate sense of duty, to the moral attraction of which his great soul ever unfalteringly turned, as turns the needle to the magnetic attraction of the pole, alone determined his choice. In his grand refusal of the lucrative offers for the use of his name alone in the enterprises of business, he said: "No, I am grateful, but I have a self-imposed task which I must accomplish. I have led the young men of the South in battle. I have seen many of them fall under my standard. I shall devote my life now to training young men

to do their duty in life." And so the hero of a hundred stricken fields, the almost peerless chieftain whose deeds had filled the world with his fame, laid aside the sword and the epaulet of the warrior for the gown and the mace of the College President, and passed from the stern bivouac of the camp and the fierce excitements of war to the studio of the philosopher and the lettered ease of the scholar. It was not, however, a case like that of the fabled Hercules forced from the heroic labors of his life to endure the distaff and the woollen tasks of a penal servitude. Still less was it a case like that of the crownless Sicilian despot who, expelled from the throne for his vices, assumed the ferule of the pedagogue, that he might lord it over boys when he could no longer tyrannize over men. But it was a case grander far and far more abounding in the elements of the moral sublime than either. It was the case of a truly great and a truly good man, baffled in his efforts to serve and to save his country by the dread ministries of war, devoting himself, in the sunset of his days, with the zeal and the energy of youth, to the high endeavor to serve and to save it, in another and a nobler struggle, by the benignant arts and the healing policies of peace. And how laboriously, how conscientiously, and how successfully he bore himself in his office of a College President, living in the strenuous discharge of all its duties and dying in the midst of unaccomplished labors and unfulfilled aspirations for the moral and intellectual elevation of the young men of the South, your memories all attest and the world knows by heart.

Now a Memorial University, viewed as the monument of General Lee, would, in effect, prolong his educational labors and carry forward his educational aspirations to realization in the future. Through its instrumentality, though dead, he would be constituted a virtually living and still active agent in the educational fields of the South. The light of his great example and character would still abide, in its memorial halls, like a living presence, among the young men of the South; the tones of his paternal voice would continue to fall, in spirit utterances, upon their ears, and his coun-

sels, recorded in history or repeated by the tongue of tradition and renewed by the commemorative exercises of the Institution itself, would evermore descend, a quickening and ennobling influence, upon their minds and hearts. Thus, his monument would become the throne of his abiding and unbroken spiritual sovereignty over the young men of the South, and through its agency his educational labors would be virtually repeated and prolonged in the future.

Another and absolutely conclusive view of the case may be presented. Had General Lee himself been consulted, during his life, on the subject of a monument to his own memory when dead, and could his modest and self-abnegating nature have been prevailed on to speak upon the point at all, we have every reason to believe, from our knowledge of his life and character, that he would have chosen the monument of a Memorial University. Personal disinterestedness and benevolence were leading traits in his character. He was eminently unselfish both in public and in private life; was averse to personal display of any kind, or to exaltation of himself either in word or deed, and received even the merited commendation of others upon himself and his actions, and the demonstrations of respect with which his presence was always greeted by the public, with manifest reluctance, and with a feeling bordering even on regret. A finer model of manly modesty and of complete self-abnegation, was never presented, in a great personage, for the admiration of men. His benevolence was, also, as conspicuous as his personal disinterestedness. He delighted in doing good to others; neglected no opportunity that presented itself of performing deeds of noiseless and unpretending charity, and was so abounding, both in the sentiment and in the works of beneficence, as to merit, as truly as Marcus Aurelius himself, the epithet of the Good. To a nature so unselfish and benevolent, the chief value of life would consist in the opportunities which it afforded for doing good in the world, and the most coveted commemoration after death would be to live in the memory of his good deeds performed among men while living, and in good works multiplied

and carried on by the perpetuating office of his monumental honors after his departure from the earth. Besides, a monument in marble or brass, unquestionably appropriate and impressive as it is, has necessarily, from its very nature, a severely personal aspect in the relation which it bears to its subject, and is, for that reason, somewhat selfish in its character, and it does good to mankind, not directly and of set purpose, but rather by indirection, and by the reflex and, as it were, undesigned influence of the lesson which its moral object or its sentiment teaches the beholder. On both accounts, such a monument, while it would fail to typify the two leading traits in the character of General Lee, would have been little in conformity with his personal tastes, and still less an object of his choice as a monument for himself. But a great Memorial University, modest and unselfish, like his nature, in the personal aspect which it bears to its subject as a monument, and aiming, as he did, to do good to mankind by the intellectual and moral elevation of the young, would be a grand emblem of his personal disinterestedness and benevolence, and would, no doubt, both on account of the modest unselfishness of its aspect, and its manifest usefulness to the world, have been chosen by himself as his preferred monument over any other kind that could have been submitted to his choice. But if General Lee himself would have chosen a Memorial University as his own monument, it becomes, for that reason alone, the most appropriate one that could be erected to his memory.

It is so, also, for another reason.

A Memorial University would form a preëminently grand and impressive monument, far in advance of those heretofore erected to commemorate the great ones of the earth, and, for that very reason, it would constitute the monument most appropriate for General Lee. He was himself a grand advance, as hero, patriot and man, upon the type of the world's selectest and most admired characters. Of all its illustrious men, living or dead, the name of Washington alone stands out on the pages of history as his rival and peer. Warriors as great, or even greater than he, have lived

both in ancient and in modern times. Civilians of talent and attainment, as brilliant and varied, and even greatly more brilliant and varied than his, have often appeared upon the theatre of the world. But for the equable balance, and the even endowment of both head and heart, and for the rare combination of all the qualities which constitute goodness, as well as greatness in human character, save Washington alone, none like him have yet arisen among men. As General Lee thus stands out in fact, as he will finally, in the recognition of mankind, and on the pages of history, as one of the world's two foremost heroes and men, so should his memory have accorded to it a grander monument than has yet been erected to any hero in ancient or any worthy in modern times. And such a monument, as I have already, in other portions of this address, abundantly shown, a great Memorial University would be.

Such an Institution, while it would serve, by its superior dignity and grandeur as a monument worthily to commemorate the life and character of General Lee, as one of the world's greatest heroes and noblest men, would also reflect honor upon the people of the South as its founders, and might prove a potent inducement to mankind to honor the memories of illustrious characters by a nobler and more useful style of memorial tributes. The people of the South, in erecting the grandest monument yet known among men, to their illustrious countryman, would receive, at the hands of the world, the meed of the merited and double praise of having had the discernment to recognize his transcendent merit, and also the liberality and the gratitude to crown it with the monumental honors it deserves. Such a conspicuous instance of a nobler style of perpetuating the name and fame of distinguished men, might provoke mankind to a frequent imitation of the example, and thus, in time, the more civilized communities of the earth might come to be crowded with memorial institutions of various kinds, which, blessing the living while they honored the dead, would help to introduce a new and higher order of things in the world. And thus the age and the countrymen of Lee might be

able to appropriate to themselves, in an accommodated and loftier sense, the boast of Cæsar Augustus, who claimed that he found Rome brick and left it marble, in being able to claim that they found the world honoring the memories of its illustrious dead with marble and brass, which crumble in time and pass away, leaving no useful memorials of themselves behind, and left it honoring them with noble and beneficent institutions of learning and religion which scatter the immortal blessings of religious and intellectual culture along the pathway of all the generations, and whose influences for good among men will die out only with the extinction of the light of the sun and the going out of the blaze of the constellations in the heavens themselves.

But in the next and last place, a Memorial University would not only be the noblest and the most appropriate monument that the people of the South could erect to the memory of General Lee, but it would also be the most enduring.

The monuments erected by mankind, in the past and in the present, whether composed of the quickly dissolving materials of earth and wood, or of the more enduring substances of marble and brass, have already perished from the sight of men, or are rapidly passing away. The memorial altars of stone and earth, built by the patriarchs and prophets of old to mark the spots of great personal deliverances or of special divine manifestations to man, are no more. The memorial piles of the same material, once swarming along the devious pathway of the children of Israel, from Egypt to Canaan, are known to us only through the writings of Moses and the chronicles of the bards and prophets of the Bible. The earth mound on the plains of ancient Greece, which showed where the might of Persia went down before the chivalry of Athens and her allies, is level now with the face of the surrounding country. The sites of the Tower of Babel and of numerous commemorative works of antiquity mentioned in history cannot be even conjecturally determined. The *tumuli* on the plains of Troy, which once told where the fallen brave on either side rested from the tumult of battle and storms of the ten

years war, live only on the misleading tongue of tradition or look out upon us through the idealizing mists of the epic of Homer.

In modern times even monuments of marble and brass are perishing beneath the touch of the corroding tooth of time. In the Old World commemorative columns and works may be seen, on every hand, ruinous from decay. Even Westminster Abbey, the common mausoleum of England's most illustrious dead, and the stately structure of the Invalides in Paris, the sepulchre of the disrowned, but mightiest monarch in the annals of France, require constant and vigilant repairs to resist the assaults of time.

In this country the few monuments which mark the burial spots of some of our nation's most illustrious dead, are already partially in ruins. The marble memorial which points out the grave of President Monroe, the monolith erected to the memory of Pulaski, at Savannah, and the marble slab over the tomb of Jefferson, are fast disappearing beneath the abrasions of time and the pillage of visitors who value relics more than they do the memories of the illustrious sleepers below. The half-finished national monument in the Federal City, which the gratitude of the country began to erect to the memory of Washington, but which its parsimony and the decline in its appreciation of his great name and fame have not permitted, and, it is to be feared, will never permit it to complete, is, from its peculiar exposure to the ravages of the weather and time which its incompleteness invites, already ruinous in look, and will soon, unless completed or more adequately protected, become ruinous also in both material and superstructure. And so it ever has been, and so it evermore will be, with monuments built of the perishing materials out of which men have usually constructed them. They hasten to decay from the first moment of their erection, and have the seeds of their final dissolution, embedded, from foundation to summit, through all their structure.

But a Memorial University, in the very nature of the case, will constitute a more enduring monument than one even of marble and brass. Its buildings, of whatever architectural materials com-

posed, will of course be subject, like the brass and the marble of other monuments, to decay. But even in this purely material aspect of the case, a Memorial University, as a mere physical structure, would be likely to be far more enduring than the ordinary monuments erected by man. These, after receiving the finishing touch of the architect, are commonly abandoned to their fate. The rushing pinion of the centuries brushes against them. The winds and the rains, the storms and the lightning of heaven descend upon them. Soon they begin to fissure and crumble. No friendly help comes in time to heal the ever-deepening and finally incurable wounds in their material and fabric, as the public usually consigns completed monumental structures to the fatal outlawry of its neglect, and thus places them beyond the reach of the ministry of either its vigilance or its repair. In consequence, they soon become ruinous both in look and in substance, and, at the end of their destined period of duration, crumble down and pass out of the sight and also out of the remembrance of men. But the public buildings of a Memorial University would be placed under the guardianship of a watchful and ever present ministry of inspection and repair. The public at large, interested in their preservation, the Trustees, the Faculty, the students and all the neighboring friends and patrons of the Institution, would constitute a multitudinous police to watch for the first breaches of decay in them, to sound the alarm and to furnish the needed help to arrest the march of decline. And thus, like the fabled ship *Argo* which bore Jason and his comrades to the theft of the golden fleece of Colchis, and which repaired, as it decayed, by the pious watchfulness of the Greeks, continued, as the legend tells us, finished and sound in all its parts, an object of popular veneration and respect, through all the long night of the legendary age of that glorious land; or rather like the marvellous fabric of our material frames which, ever repaired, as fast as they waste, by the wondrous chemistry of the vital forces, remain, though ever changing, whole and fit tabernacles for the indwelling soul, the buildings of a Memorial University, ever repaired as soon as damaged by decay, would

endure as long as there were living men in the South, animated by sympathy with its memorial purpose and its educational offices, to lift a stone to rebuild their crumbling walls or to place a tile upon their mouldering roof.

But after all, the enduring nature of a Memorial University, viewed as the monument of General Lee, is to be sought for rather in the moral results which will flow from it than in the probable long duration of its merely material structure. The educational ministry of the Institution will gradually prepare, in the educated minds and the cultivated hearts of the young men of the South, the materials for a moral monument grander far and more enduring than any fabric of brass or marble that our hands could build. Each young man, educated in the Memorial University and prepared by discipline and culture for the high duties of life, would constitute a goodly moral block, polished and fitly shaped, for his place in the moral superstructure. Each year would contribute a moral stratum to the edifice. Every generation would add to its ascending height. Higher and higher into the moral heavens of the South it would rise, as generation succeeded generation and age followed age in the roll of the centuries, until a moral monument, visible to reason's eye, would tower in the intellectual firmament, with the whole broad area of Southern society for its foundation and the whole moral sky of the South for its summit and covering dome. Such a monument as this would constitute, in reality, that monument in the hearts of a people of which oratory boasts and poetry sings as the noblest and most enduring commemoration which the memories of the illustrious ones of the earth can receive. And then in the years which are to come, expanding the boast and justly sharing in the pride of the Roman matron who, pointing to her noble and cultivated sons, destined to become the unavailing martyrs of Roman liberty, exclaimed, *these are my jewels*, the people of the South, pointing to the hosts of educated and noble young men sent forth from the halls of the Memorial University, scattered through all parts of this great land of ours, winning proud reputations in the diversified pursuits of public,

and adorning all the circles of private, life, may proudly exclaim, *these, these* are the true and enduring monuments which we have erected to the memory of our immortal hero and patriot, General Robert E. Lee.

Permit me now, by way of general summary and conclusion of the whole argument of this Address, to present, in a somewhat rhetorical form, the contrasted merits of the two monumental schemes most likely to divide the suffrages of the people of the South, embodied in the concrete reality of two, supposed to be, completed monuments.

In the public cemetery for example, at Richmond, Virginia, stands a noble monumental column. Its foundations have been laid deep in the soil which drank to the full of the blood of the martyrs of the Lost Cause and its summit mounts high into the heavens which blushed red with the hue of the stricken fields of the conflict and flung back to the earth the echoes of the blended prayers of the dying for mercy and of the living for help. It has been erected by the hands and sanctified by the blessing of all the people of the South as their common monument to the memory of one of the greatest and most beloved heroes in their annals. Hard by the dead General, whose remains have been brought to the spot that the monument and its subject may not be dissociated, sleeps in the tent of his grave in the midst of his dead soldiers and comrades in arms whom he led along the rugged highways of the struggle and in the stormy day of the battle. It looks out over the proud city which was the metropolis of the fair clime for whose cause he fought, and is visible, at their homes, to many thousand citizens of the State which gave him birth. It is an object of veneration and respect to visitors from every land. The sons and daughters of the South view it with liquid hearts and moistened eyes as they think of their trodden clime and of the mighty sleeper below whose great heart bled and broke in its cause. Still fresh from the hands of its builders it stands erect and grand, in the beauty and the glory of its architectural prime, without one scar or fissure from foundation stone

to summit in its colossal fabric. And ever as the lengthening years go by, reverent age and wondering youth visit the column and, as they look up to its awful form, it speaks to them with its monumental voice of all that is greatest in human life and most ennobling in human character and they depart from its presence refreshed, as with the dues from the Hermon of patriotism and with souls attuned to the harmony of great thoughts and noble aspirations. The gray centuries, fruitful in the ministry of change and decay pass in solemn procession. Political revolutions sweep over the land. The myriad changes in the social life of the people come and go. Fresh wars break out, run their mad careers and end in the enthronement of new heroes in the popular heart and the demand for new monuments to perpetuate their memory. Through all these cycles of change and decay the column at Richmond still stands and still speaks, though with ever diminishing potency in its utterances, to the hearts of men. But time's effacing ministries are busy with its structure from summit to base. Cement and grapples loosen their hold upon its massive blocks and the whole fabric totters to its fall. The living generations of men, busy with their own affairs and caring only for the monumental commemoration of their own illustrious dead, withhold the needed and timely repairs. Century by century the column crumbles and finally sinks down, in scattered fragments, to the level of the earth. In time the curious traveller from other lands or the prying antiquary, strolling, in casual walk, among its blocks half-buried in the soil, wipes the dust from their upturned surfaces but finds no name or inscription upon them to indicate who brought them to the spot or to declare the use to which they were once applied. History and tradition still tell of the virtues and the deeds of Robert E. Lee, but the colossal column erected at Richmond to perpetuate his memory has perished from the sight and from the remembrance of men.

Turn now and view, with fancy's eye, the contrasted picture whose outlines I have drawn upon the moral canvass of this, I fear, too protracted Address, to-day.

On the spot where we are now assembled stands a noble Institution of learning. It, too, has its foundations laid deep in the soil and lifts its covering domes high into the heavens of the blood-drenched and war-wasted land of the South. Over the most public entrance to its grounds has been inscribed, with suitable additions, an accommodated translation of the epitaph of the architect of St. Paul's, so that to the uplifted eye of the visitor the entire superscription reads thus: *General Robert E. Lee: If you seek for his monument look around you.* The soil beneath and the skies above it are the soil and the skies of his native State whose banner of the proud device and the defiant motto "*sic semper tyrannis*," streamed like a meteor over the deadliest fields of the late struggle between the States. Its geographic situation is fortunate in its felicitous adaptation to the combined educational and memorial purposes to which the Institution is dedicated. Grand and ennobling historic antecedents enrobe it with moral dignity and grandeur. For five years it was presided over by the great hero and patriot of the South whose monument it has become and all its Academic grounds and buildings are thronged with undying memories of his life, character and services. In the midst of its memorial buildings is the sepulchre which contains his honored remains and from it issue evermore educating influences which will instruct and encourage the people of the South through all their generations. It has been splendidly endowed by contributions from all portions of the country. It is open free of cost to all who are entitled to its educational privileges. The grandeur of its proportions, the munificence of its endowment and the splendor of its Academic equipments constitute it the foremost Institution of learning in the world. It stands upon the soil of the South, an object of pride to all its people and of veneration and respect to every beholder. In it the memory of General Lee ascends to its permanent seat of ever-widening and ever-deepening influence over the minds and hearts of the whole American people. Crowds of ingenuous youth from the South and from the North ✓

frequent its halls and struggle in generous rivalry on all the arenas of mind. The streams of its educational influence pour through all the moral arteries of the land. And ever, as the circling years go by, hoary age and strenuous manhood and wondering youth visit its memorial buildings and grounds, receive the lesson which the genius of the place inspires and depart from its monumental scenes invigorated in patriotism and strengthened in resolution for all the conflicts of life.—Down the long line of the ages these memorial and educational offices of the Institution descend. The winds and the rains, the storms and the lightnings of centuries beat upon its buildings, but they fall not, for they are founded upon the rock of the popular interest and affection which keep the ministry of repair ever at even pace with the ravage of decay. Political revolutions shake the land; social changes wax and wane; wars rage and new heroes are born of their bloody convulsions, but none of them displace the memory of Robert E. Lee from the minds and the hearts of men for it has become a fountain of blessing to the living in every age. Thus from lip to lip of the generations his name and his fame pass down the aisle of the centuries. The chorus of his praise swells out from the echoing corridors of the past; the men of each living present rise up and call him blessed; while far away in the horizon of every future the light of his influence, streaming out from the Memorial University, may still be seen irradiating, like the flush of auroral lights, the moral skies of the South.

Gentlemen of the Literary Societies, I appeal to you, and through you I appeal to all the people of the South, to say, which of the two monuments that I have now described, that of the supposed monumental column at Richmond or that of the supposed Memorial University at Lexington, best befits the life and character, or will most worthily and lastingly transmit the memory of General Robert E. Lee to the future? If, with me, you and they believe that there is less a comparison than a contrast between the merits and claims of the two, and hold,

as I do, that a Memorial University is almost immeasurably to be preferred as his monument, then I earnestly invoke your and their coöperation in the effort to establish it.

The time is propitious for action, and invites to vigorous and united effort in behalf of the undertaking. The great heart of the South is still warm with love for the memory, and still glows with gratitude for the services of General Lee. Like the rock of the prophet in the wilderness, it needs only to be smitten with the rod of a timely and judicious appeal, to gush forth in streams of abundant help for the erection of a fitting monument to his memory. Encouraged by this animating and well-grounded assurance, let us enter into the field of the enterprise and labor like men who struggle for a victory nobler in itself and more useful in result than any mere success in arms ever rewarded with triumphal procession and laurel in ancient, or with the applause of the million in modern times. Difficulties will have to be met, obstacles surmounted, and prejudices overcome. The doubts of some, the indifference of many, and, perhaps, the positive opposition of a few, will not be wanting to perplex our counsels and to retard our movements. These, however, are but the impediments which assail every enterprise worthy of the strenuous labor and the arduous sacrifices which command success. They should animate and encourage, rather than depress our hopes and efforts, as we know that the palms of the noblest triumphs are never won, either in public or in private life, without encountering the dust and the toil of the arena, as well as the gibes of the doubting Thomases of the world. Let us remember, as we labor in the good cause, that we labor to benefit the living no less than as to honor the dead. Let us feel that, as citizens of the South, we are under personal responsibility, to the extent of our power and influence, for the preservation and the diffusion of the lessons of the great life and character of our illustrious countryman. And when, as the fruit of our toils, a great Memorial University shall crown the spot where we are now assembled, we shall be cheered and gratified, to the end of our days on earth, by the

reflection that we have succeeded in accomplishing all that is necessary worthily to honor the memory of the great hero and patriot of the South, and in effecting much for the promotion of the moral and intellectual interests of the present and the coming generations of men. And then, when on anniversary occasions, or on casual visits, crowds of the old and the young, with some of us in the midst, shall gather at the base of the monumental walls of the Institution and speak, the one to the other, of the grandeur of the structure, the noble purposes to which it is dedicated, and the great and glorious deeds and virtues of him in whose honor it has been erected, as our hearts dilate under the stirring colloquy and the mighty memories of the place throng in upon us, our tongues shall break forth with the proud ejaculation: "Thank Heaven we also are the countrymen of Robert E. Lee, and we, too, helped to erect this noble monument to perpetuate his fame,"



